

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00575 090946Z
ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9585

UNCLAS GABORONE 0575

E.O.11652 N/A

TAGS TBIO BC, US

SUBJECT REQUEST FOR TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

1. ONE OF THE LEADING OPHTHALMOLOGISTS IN THE UNITED STATES,
DR. FRANK C. WINTER, CURRENTLY THE ONLY EYE SURGEON IN BOTSWANA
IS HERE UNDER AUSPICES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. HE IS ON LEAVE
OF ABSENCE FROM STANFORD WHERE HE WAS FORMERLY HEAD OF
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. HE IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A SEMINAR
AT WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY ON OPHTHALMIC PATHOLOGY. DR. WINTER
PRESENCE HERE IS PRIMARILY DUE TO TIES WITH ANGLICAN CHURCH, BUT
HE LIVES ON LOCAL SALARY ALLOWANCES.

2. DR. WINTER APPROACHED ME MARCH 8, TO NOTE THAT "INTERNATIONAL
COURSE ON OPHTHALMOLOGY" SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BARCELONA, SPAIN
MAY 15-20 . HE HAS ATTENDED IN PAST, AND WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND IN
AGAIN THIS YEAR. HE HAS RECEIVED INVITATION FROM COURSE ORGANIZERS
ASKING HIM TO REPORT ON HIS LATEST EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING A NEW
AND SIMPLIFIED "ENTROPIAN OPERATION FOR TRACHOMA". DR. WINTER
REGRETTED THAT HIS RESOURCES DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO FINANCE THE
TRAVEL TO ATTEND THE COURSE AND THEREAFTER CONSULT WITH COLLEAGUES
IN NETHERLANDS AND WEST GERMANY WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE SAME
GENERAL AREA. (HE IS ALREADY DRAWING ON PERSONAL SAVINGS TO MAKE
ENDS MEET HERE). GOB SAYS IT CANNOT SEND HIM. HE WONDERED IF THERE
WOULD BE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING HIS ATTENDENCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GABORO 00575 090946Z

ESTIMATED COST WOULD BE DOLLARS 1800. DOLLARS900 FOR ROUND TRIP
TICKET AND DOLLARS 900 FOR PER DIEM.

3. ALTHOUGH A SELF-EFFACING PERSON DR. WINTER EXPANDED AT SOME
LENGTH ON WIDESPREAD BENEFITS HE CONFIDENTLY BELIEVE WOULD RESULT

FROM KNOWLEDGE OF THE METHODS DEVELOPED FOR COMBATTING TRACHOMA.
THE NEW SIMPLIFIED OPERATION CUTS DOWN ON TIME AND CAN BE PERFORMED
EVEN BY NON-PHYSICIAN. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED EXTRAORDINARY
HELP IT PROMISES TO ENTIRE RANGE OF MEDITERRANEAN, NEAR EAST AND SOUT
H ASIAN

SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES WHERE TRACHOMA IS PREVALENT. WHILE THIS IS
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF HIS VIST HE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSING HIS
"PLASTIC LENS" SURGERY FOR CATARACT OPERATIONS AND HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL GLAUCOMA TREATMENT WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT
BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT
THAT DR. WINTER'S CONTRIBUTION MIGHT HAVE IN TERMS OF IMPROVED
TREATMENT OF THESE COMMON EYE DISEASES. WE CAN ONLY ATTEST THAT
HE HAS MADE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION HERE AND IS HIGHLY RESPECTED
AUTHORITY IN HIS FIELD. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, HIS REQUEST FOR
FUNDS APPEARS BOTH MODEST AND JUSTIFIED . WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SOUND OUT ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.
AMONG SUCH POSSIBLE SOURCES MIGHT BE CU(HAYS-FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE
GRANTS), AID -FINANCED PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.
WE WOULD GUESS THERE ARE NOT MANY MORE PRODUCTIVE USES FOR DOLLARS
1800 IN FIELD OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

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